

All about
Israel

by Pastor Bruce Edwards



- ▶ THE LAND
- ▶ THE PEOPLE
- ▶ JERUSALEM
- ▶ PALESTINE?

THE HOLY LAND



ALL ABOUT ISRAEL

*The People - The Land -
Jerusalem and
Israel in Prophecy*

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INTRODUCTION

Israel as of today occupies only 8000 square miles. The land God promised Abraham is about 68,000 square miles. One day Israel will occupy all the land God promised.

Today the land of Israel is smaller than the state of New Hampshire, yet it dominates the world news. It is under constant threat of attacks by the nations that surround them. They are hated by most of the world.

God chose the nation of Israel to be the people through whom Jesus Christ would be born—the Savior of the World. He has a special covenant with them that will ultimately be fulfilled upon the return of Jesus.

The world looks at Israel in different ways. There are several conflicting political views. There are opposing academic views. There are even

different religious viewpoints. Who has the right view of Israel? I wonder if any of them have ever really studied Israel in the Bible? I wonder how many have an accurate historical understanding of Israel. Not many. The following is simply what the scriptures say about Israel without any interpretation and then a brief historical review of Israel. Later we will give some perspective as it relates to the people of Israel, the land of Israel, and the city of Jerusalem.

THE PEOPLE

God did not choose a group, or a nation of people called Israel. God chose a person called **Abraham** whose descendants became the Jewish nation. (Genesis 12)

The word Israelite is often used synonymously with the terms Hebrew and Jew. We sometimes refer to the Israelites or Jews as "God's chosen people." God miraculously brought the nation of Israel into being.

The ultimate goal of God's choice of the Jews as His chosen people was to produce the Messiah, Jesus Christ, who would be the Savior of the world. God's reason for choosing the nation of Israel was not solely for the purpose of producing the Messiah. God's desire for Israel was that they would go and teach others about Him.

God's intent was for Israel to be a distinct people, a nation who pointed others towards God and His promised provision of a Redeemer, Messiah, and Savior. God

The nation Israel is like no other nation on the face of the earth. It is God ordained, God decreed, and a God protected nation. They are His special, chosen people. He chose Israel, *"to be a special people unto Himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth (Deuteronomy 7:6)."* Verse eight tells us why - *"because the Lord loves you and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob)."*

Not only did God bring Israel into being as a miracle nation, but God keeps Israel as a miracle nation. God said:

- the Jews would be disobedient – and they were,
- the Jews would be disbursed – and they were,

- the Jews would be discredited – and they were,

However, the Jewish people could no more be destroyed than you could destroy the sun, the moon and stars. They may be chastised, they may suffer, but God said, He would keep His Word to David and his seed would endure. (Psalm 84:29).

20 SCRIPTURES

ABOUT ISRAEL

1. **The Covenant:** God made an unconditional and everlasting covenant with Abram (Abraham). It was to make his descendants a great nation. More importantly, through Abraham God would bless all the families of the earth (Gen 12.2,3 Gen 17.7)
2. **The Land:** Under the same covenant God promised Abraham's descendants "all the land of Canaan" (Gen 17.8)
3. **The Line of Descent:** This covenant was established with Abraham's son Isaac and not with Ishmael (Gen 17.21 Gen 26.1-5)
4. **The Birth of Israel:** God renamed Jacob (Isaac's son) as "Israel". Jacob and his descendants inherited the covenant promises given to Abraham - a great nation and their own land (Gen 35.11-12)

5. **God's Chosen People:** God made the nation of Israel His very own people (forever). This was to make a name for Himself in the world (2 Sam 7.23-26, Isa 43.1). God chose Israel to be His witnesses and servant (Isa 43.10)
6. **Conditional Promise:** God promised Israel that if she kept the Mosaic covenant (the Law), then out of all the nations she would be His 'treasured possession' (Deut. 5.2-3, Deut. 6.16-18, Exod. 19.5-8)
7. **Disbursement of Israel:** God warned Israel that if she failed to keep His commandments and statutes (the Law) then she would not receive His blessings. Instead, the people of Israel would be scattered amongst all the nations (Deut. 28.15-68). This happened (the "diaspora").
8. **God's Mercy:** Whilst in this 'scattered state' (Ja 1.1), the disobedient tribes of Israel reflect upon, and return to, God's commandments. Then God will have compassion upon them and gather them from all the nations where they were scattered (Deut. 30.1-3)

9. **The Restoration of Israel's:** God will bring the people of Israel back to their own land (Ezek. 37.21). This is not for Israel's sake, but for the sake of God's holy name (Ezek. 36.16-24). It will be like a "marriage restoration", and Israel will be brought to Zion (Hos 2.14-16, Jer. 3.14)
10. **Israel's Borders:** Israel's future borders are clearly defined in prophecy, the eastern boundary running along the Jordan. These borders are almost identical to the borders of ancient Israel given to Moses (Ezek. 47.13-20, Num 34.1-12)
11. **Israel a Sign:** Israel then becomes "a banner (signal, flag) for the nations" (Isa 11.12). Israel's return will be evident to all and nations will recognize the hand of the God of Israel (Ezek. 36.23)
12. **The Land is Blessed:** Canaan, the land promised to Abraham, will prosper and be blessed. Desolate land becomes "like Eden" (Joel 2.21-27, Isa 51.3, Ezek. 36.35). Zion will be beautiful and glorious (Isa 60.13)

13. **Persecution of Israel:** As foretold in the Abrahamic Covenant, Israel would be a blessing to the world (through salvation in Christ). But, because Israel 'gave birth' to Christ, she is in a continuous spiritual war with demonic forces trying to destroy her (Rev 12.13,17)
14. **Israel's End-time Judgment:** Regathered Israel goes through great suffering (Jacob's trouble, Jer. 30.7) but a remnant is saved (Zech. 13.9) as God pours His Spirit upon them. At this time Israel recognizes Christ as her true Messiah (Mat 24.22, Zech. 12.10-14, Joel 2.28-32)
15. **Israel's Messiah:** Israel's end-time recognition of Christ as her Messiah is like the natural branches of an olive tree being grafted back into their own olive tree. Israel's blindness is removed, and her sins forgiven. Jew and Gentile will be "one flock" in Christ (Rom 11.24-27, Heb 8.8-12, Jn 10.16)
16. **Israel's King:** Christ returns "with all His saints" (1 Thess. 3.13, Jude 14) to Zion and reigns from Jerusalem as ruler and King over all the nations (governments) of earth (Isa 2.1-4, Isa 9.6, Zech.

8.3,14.9, Mat 5.35). Jesus is 'the truth' (Jn 14.6) and Jerusalem will be called the City of Truth (Zech. 8.3)

17. **Peace on Earth:** The Saints reign with Christ for 1000 years and the earth will be at peace. Jews will be revered, and nations will go up from year to year to worship Christ in Jerusalem (Zech. 8.20-23, Zech. 14.16, Isa 11.6-9, Isa 66.18-23, Rev 20.4-6)
18. **Jews and non-Jews:** In the future, non-Jews (strangers) living in Israel will be treated just like native-born Israelites (Ezek. 47.22,23)
19. **The New Jerusalem:** In a figurative sense, the twelve tribes of Israel, and the twelve apostles, are associated with the gates and walls respectively of the New Jerusalem on the future new earth. The implication is that the New Jerusalem is filled with the elect of God from all eras. And the distinct roles of Israel and the Church in God's redemptive plan is retained into eternity (Rev 21.9-27, 2 Pet 3.7-13, Mat 19.28, Isa 65.17)

20. Israel Forever: Just as the new heavens and the new earth remain forever, so the people and name of Israel will remain forever (Isa 66.22)

HISTORY OF ISRAEL

BIBLICAL TIMELINE

2085 BC

God promises Abraham to make his descendants a “nation”. Genesis 12:1-4,

“The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. ² “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

2081 BC

God promise the land of Israel to Abraham. Genesis 15:18

“On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: “To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates — ¹⁹ the Kenites, the Kenezites, the Kadmonites, ²⁰ the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, ²¹ the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.”

1906 BC

God changes Jacob's name to Israel for out of Jacob, (who is the son of Isaac and the grandson of Abraham), will come the twelve tribes that are the people of Israel.

1886 BC

Joseph - son of Jacob (Israel) who was sold into slavery by his brothers and went to prison on false charges ultimately is promoted by pharaoh to second in command in Egypt.

1875 BC

Israel moves all of his family to Egypt, a total of 75 people, where Joseph was ruling with pharaoh. Israel and Joseph die, but the Israelites multiply greatly. A new leader of Egypt comes into power and begins to oppress the Jews.

THE JEWISH PEOPLE (ISRAEL) SPEND 400 YEARS IN EGYPTIAN BONDAGE

1446 BC

Exodus - Moses Delivers Israel from Egypt and Moses receives the Old Covenant from God.

1000 BC

Israel is a strong and influential power in the world as a United Kingdom under King David

931 BC

Israel is Divided into two Kingdoms.

772 BC

The Northern Kingdom taken Captive by Assyrians and the people are dispersed into the nations.

605 BC

Judah the Southern Kingdom is taken Captive by the Babylonians.

537 BC

The Jewish exiles return to Jerusalem under the direction of Zerubbabel to rebuild temple. They encounter opposition and the work is ordered to stop until King Darius allows them to continue to rebuild and the temple is completed in **515 BC**.

445 BC

Nehemiah returns to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls of the city and the people of Israel settle in the city.

THE SILENT YEARS

*(about 400 years between last writings of
OT and the first of the NT)*

332 BC

Land conquered by Alexander the Great (Greek Empire)

63 BC

Judea captured by Roman Empire.

HISTORY PALESTINE

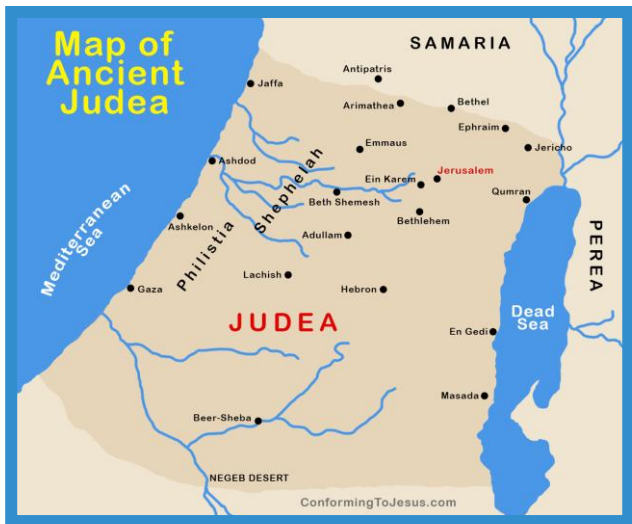
Beginning of First Century.

Rome Renames Judea "Palestine"

The Roman Empire defeated the over 1,000-year-old nation of Judea, destroyed its Holy Temple in Jerusalem and exiled hundreds of thousands of Jews. To erase all memory of Judea, Rome renamed it "Palestine" after the Jews' biblical enemy, the Philistines, an Aegean people who had once settled along the coast. Afterward, Westerners referred to the Jewish-Christian Holy Land as Palestine.

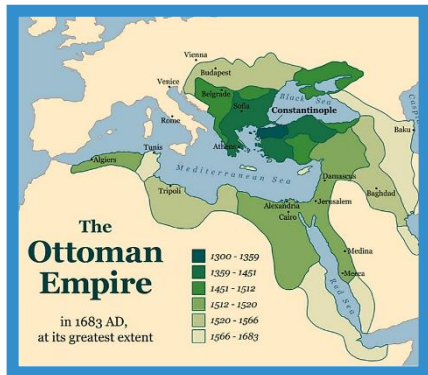
For the next two thousand years after the Roman conquest, no other state or unique national group developed in Palestine, and no ruler chose Jerusalem as its capital. Instead, different empires and peoples came, colonized, ruled, and disappeared. Jews remained throughout these changes. Their numbers grew as exiled Jews

returned in periodic waves of immigration; their numbers fell when the area's rulers persecuted them.



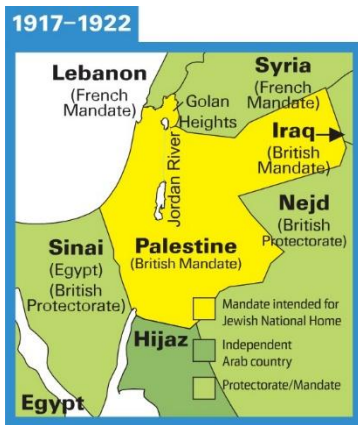
Between 1517 and 1917

Palestine was an unimportant mostly forgotten waste area of the sprawling Ottoman Empire, which, at its height in 1683, covered vast parts of the Middle East, North Africa, and Eastern Europe. It was separated into small subdistricts within the large province of Syria (and later Beirut). The Palestine region initially prospered under the Ottomans, but, during the Empire's decline, it was reduced to a sparsely populated, impoverished, and barren area.



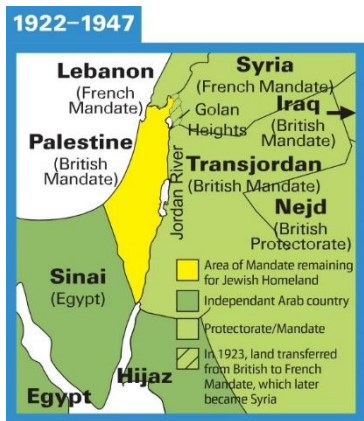
1917

In the 1917 Balfour Declaration, Britain endorsed “Zionist aspirations” to reestablish the Jewish homeland in Palestine and promised to “facilitate” the effort.’ In 1920 the Covenant of the League of Nations incorporated the Balfour Declaration in Article 22, giving it the force of international law.



1922

In 1922, in response to Arab pressure, Britain violated the Mandate and cut off 77 percent of Palestine, granted it exclusively to the Hashemites, and forbade Jewish settlement in what became Jordan.



Today, over 70 percent of Jordanians are Palestinian Arabs. In 1923 Britain again violated the Mandate and gave the Golan

Heights to the French Mandate, which later became Syria. During the Mandate the term Palestinian described both Jewish and Arab residents of Palestine.

In 1922 the League of Nations instructed the British Mandate authorities to “facilitate” Jewish

terrorists opposed to Israel's existence repeatedly launched attacks from Syria, the West Bank, and Gaza.

1967

In 1967, when Israel's neighbors again mobilized for a full-scale invasion and blocked her waterways, Israel preempted them in a defensive war. In six days of fighting, Israel captured strategically vital buffer zones: the Golan Heights, the Sinai Peninsula, Gaza, and the West Bank.



Israel immediately offered to negotiate with Jordan, Syria, and Egypt and exchange land for peace. Arab governments refused to talk to or recognize Israel. In 1973 Syria and Egypt launched a surprise attack to destroy Israel on the Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur and were again defeated.

1979

Hoping to foster peace, Israel relinquished the



entire Sinai Peninsula – which it had captured in 1967 – to Egypt in the 1979 Camp David Peace Accords. In 1994 Israel and Jordan signed a peace treaty.

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Using a “land for peace” model, Israel and the Palestinians tried to negotiate for a possible future Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza. By the time Palestinian Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat began the violent second intifada in 2000, 98 percent of Palestinians lived under an autonomous Palestinian government.

Seeing it had no peace partner and hoping for progress, Israel withdrew unilaterally from Lebanon in 2000 and from Gaza and parts of the West Bank in 2005. Nonetheless, following the withdrawal, Israel was continuously attacked

by Hamas from Gaza and by Hezbollah from Lebanon.

Map of Land Promised by God



THE LAND

God made many promises to Abraham one of which was the “Promised Land”. In chapter 15 of Genesis, God declares to Abraham, *"To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates (v.18)."*

According to Genesis 15:18 and Joshua 1:4, the land God gave to Israel included everything from the Nile River in Egypt to Lebanon (South to North) and everything from the Mediterranean Sea to the Euphrates River (West to East).

So, the land that God says belongs to Israel includes all of the land modern Israel currently possesses, plus all of the land of the West Bank and Gaza Strip; some of Egypt and

Syria, all of Jordan, plus some of Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

Israel currently possesses only a small fraction of the land God has promised, but they will possess it all in the Millennium during the reign of Christ Jesus.

WHY DOESN'T ISRAEL POSSESS THE LAND?

Because there are two Old Testament covenants pertaining to the land of Israel. The first was the Abrahamic Covenant which gives the **title** of the land to the Jews in perpetuity. The second covenant is the Mosaic Land Covenant detailed in Deuteronomy 28-30. The second covenant lays out conditions that the Israel must meet to **possess**, stay in, and enjoy the land.

So, the Abrahamic Covenant (about 2,000 B.C.) gave the title of the land to the Jews for eternity. The Mosaic Covenant (about 1,250 B.C.) gave the terms for possession and use of the land. Title and possession are not the same thing. The Jews have lost possession of the land because of their disobedience, but they have never lost their God-given title.

The Mosaic covenant warned that many curses would come upon the people if they were disobedient (Deuteronomy 28:15-37), and if they did not repent it would lead to dispersion from the land (loss of possession -Deuteronomy 28:38-57) and they would suffer great persecution. (Deuteronomy 28:58-68). *"Then the Lord will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other - Deuteronomy 28:64*

Unfortunately, the Jews did not obey the Lord and as a result the Jews have wandered among the nations and suffered severe persecution for many years, just as prophesied. But nowhere are they told that their disobedience would lead to a loss of their title to the land.

ISRAEL WILL RETURN TO POSSESS THE LAND

In fact, Deuteronomy 30 says there is day coming — when the Lord will restore them to their land once again: *“The Lord will restore you from captivity, and have compassion on you, and will gather you again from all the peoples where the Lord your God has scattered you. If your outcasts are at the ends of the earth, from there the Lord your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you back. And the Lord your God will bring you into the land*

which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it" (Deuteronomy 30:3-5).

God promised that He would give the land of Israel to the Jewish people as an eternal possession. The promise was unconditional. God confirmed it at least 55 times with an oath and stated at least 12 times that the covenant was everlasting. Amos 9:15 says, *"I will plant Israel in their own land, never again to be uprooted from the land I have given them"*. God keeps His promises. So, the people of Israel will return to the land. In fact, they have been returning since the late 1800's.

However, much of the land is still occupied by other nations and they claim what land Israel occupies is theirs. There will continue to be a battle for the land until the Lord returns.

God keeps His promises. The Abrahamic and Mosaic Covenants make it clear that the Jewish people have both the right to the land of Israel and the right to possess it.

THE CITY JERUSALEM

There is no other city on the face of the earth as important as the city of Jerusalem. All the other great cities of the earth — New York, London, Moscow, Paris, and even Rome — pale by comparison. So, what is the big deal about Jerusalem?

Jerusalem is mentioned over 800 times in the Bible. It is the one place in all of the world that the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, has singled out and called "His Own." God said, *"but I have chosen Jerusalem, that My name may be there: and I have chosen David to be over My people Israel (2 Chronicles 6:6)."*

God goes on further to say, *"For now I have chosen and sanctified this house, that My name may be there forever; and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually (2 Chronicles 7:16)."*

Jerusalem is where the Son of God shed His precious blood. It is where Jesus ascended into Heaven. It is where Jesus will return to be crowned King of Kings. It is the city from which Jesus will reign over all the nations of the world.

Jerusalem will be the scene of history's last battle when Satan rallies the nations at the end of the Millennium and leads them in revolt against the Lord. Finally, Jerusalem is where God Himself will come to reside eternally with the Redeemed. It is no wonder that Jerusalem has always been an important topic of Bible prophecy.

Historically - David reigned from Hebron for seven years while he served as king of Judah. But after he was crowned the king of both Judah and Israel, he decided to move his headquarters northward to a more central location.

The city he selected was Jebus, which was also known as “the stronghold of Zion” (2 Samuel 5:7). After he conquered it, the name was changed to Jerusalem, but it was often referred to as “the city of David” (2 Samuel 5:9). This occurred 1,000 years before the birth of Jesus — or some 3,000 years from where we stand now in human history.

After King David, his son Solomon became king and built the temple in Jerusalem. After Solomon, the nation would become divided and turn its back on God, the Lord mercifully raised up prophets to warn them and call them to repentance.

When they refused to repent, the prophets prophesied that the city of Jerusalem would be destroyed, and the nation would be taken into captivity. (Jeremiah 9:11.

The people still refused to repent, and the prophecies were fulfilled when Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the city and its temple. The Jews were taken captive by the Babylonians.

After 70 years of captivity in Babylon, the Jews returned to Jerusalem and rebuilt their temple and their city. But they refused to receive their Messiah, and so the Lord gave a second group of prophecies relating to a period of time when Jerusalem would fall under Gentile control.

Jesus Himself in Luke 21 said the temple would be destroyed in 3 days and the city would be surrounded by armies which would proceed to desolate it. (Luke 21:20). These prophecies were fulfilled 40 years later when the Romans, under Titus, completely destroyed the city, including the Temple in 70 AD.

THE MILLENNIAL JERUSALEM

Four hundred years before Jesus, the prophet Zechariah gave a number of prophecies about the events that would affect Jerusalem in the end times just before the Second Coming of the Messiah.

In Zechariah 12:1-6 it says -

1. The Jews will return to the land of Israel.
2. The Jews will occupy the city of Jerusalem.
3. The Israeli army will be like a “firepot among pieces of wood.”
4. Jerusalem will become the focal point of world politics.
5. All the nations of the world will come together against Jerusalem.

When the Lord returns, He is going to reign over all the world for a thousand years, and His

reign of peace, righteousness and justice will be based in Jerusalem: *“For from Zion will go forth the law, even the word of the Lord from Jerusalem”* (Isaiah 2:3 and Micah 4:2). Jerusalem will be the political, economic and religious center of the world (Micah 4:1-7).

ETERNAL JERUSALEM

Finally, the prophets tell us that the millennial Jerusalem will be replaced by a new Jerusalem which Jesus is preparing in Heaven now. At the end of the Millennium, there is a new heaven and new earth and then, the new Jerusalem will be lowered down to the new earth, and the Redeemed, in their new glorified bodies, will live in this new city in the presence of Almighty God, who will come down from Heaven to live forever with His children (Revelation 21:1-3).

What an amazing city this new Jerusalem will be! The Apostle John devotes 24 verses to its detailed description in Revelation 21 and 22. It will be a 1,500-mile cube with 12 foundations made of precious stones — each one named for one of the 12 apostles. Likewise, there will be 12 pearly gates, one named for each tribe of Israel. The walls will be made of jasper. The city itself will be pure gold, like clear glass.

The best part of this city will not be its beauty or its spaciousness. The best part will be the personal presence of Jesus our Lord and Almighty God, the Father. Revelation 22 says we will eternally serve God in this city and that we will “see His face.” I think that means we will have intimate, personal fellowship with our Creator eternally. And that causes me to stand in awe.

SIGNIFICANCE OF ISRAEL IN END TIME PROPHECY

The prophecies about Israel are the key to understanding everything that is happening in our world today. More End Times prophecies deal with the nation of Israel than any other subject. In the Last Days, Israel will become the main focal point for all the major events that will occur before Christ Returns. Israel is still God's chosen nation. The Church did NOT replace Israel.

Israel is God's prophetic timepiece. In Matthew 24 Jesus said to keep an eye on Israel because it will tell us when the end is here. He compares Israel to the fig tree. The fig tree is a classic representation of Israel in the Bible.

A fig tree produces both good and bad (inedible) fruit. So, it was with the nation of Israel. Jews who were whole-hearted followers of God were likened to 'good figs', and rebellious Jews were likened to 'bad figs'. The Bible also says that at the end of this age Israel will 'blossom and bud' and 'put forth new leaves' like a fig tree, and that this will be a sign of the return of Jesus.

God sees the beginning from the end and knows all things. God has a schedule and has appointed times for events to happen. God has lovingly given us a look at His schedule so that we won't be caught off guard when these events take place. He has appointed Israel as His prophetic timepiece. If you want to know what time it is in God's schedule, all you have to do is look at what's happening in Israel. God uses the nation of Israel as a sign to the world that Christ's return is near. Put simply, the Bible says

that end-time events in the world will be closely linked to Israel. Here are 5 key end time prophecies concerning Israel:

➤ **1. Prophecy of the Regathering of Israel**
Jeremiah 23:3

Then I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply.

Deuteronomy 30:3, 5

then the Lord your God will restore your fortunes and have mercy on you, and he will gather you again from all the peoples where the Lord your God has scattered you...And the Lord your God will bring you into the land that your fathers possessed, that you may possess it.

Ezekiel 36:24

For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land.

Israel has been scattered among the nations as a result of their disobedience and idolatry. God warned Israel when He imposed the Law: “*Disobey and you will be scattered.*” (Dt. 4:25-27)

However, the Jewish people will be regathered in unbelief from the four corners of the earth as prophesied in many passages.

In addition, the Jews have endured intense persecutions for over 3000 years. During the first and second centuries the Romans killed as many as 1.8 million Jews. The Nazi Holocaust resulted in the deaths of 6 million Jews, including 1.5 million children. This reduced the worldwide population of Jews to approximately

10 million. Since that time, the population has grown to 14 million, with 6 million now residing in the re-established state of Israel.

Fulfillment of the regathering of Israel began at the end of the eighteen hundreds and is continuing today. Many mistakenly mark 1948 as the fulfillment of this prophecy. While very significant it is only a part of the process of fulfillment. The 1948 declaration of independence merely formalized what had been already true for decades: Israel was back from the dead. The total fulfillment of this prophecy will be completed at the future appointed time. God is gathering His people as He promised.

➤ **2. Prophecy of Israel's Restoration**
(regeneration)

Zech. 12:10

*I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that **they will look on Me***

whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.”

Hos. 3:4-5

⁴For the sons of Israel will remain for many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred pillar and without ephod or household idols. ⁵Afterward the sons of Israel will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king; and they will come trembling to the LORD and to His goodness in the last days.

This prophecy from Hosea, in verse 4, describes the state of Israel ever since the temple was destroyed by Rome in 70 AD, and so this period has certainly been going on “*for many days*” (years). But according to verse 5, there will be another period “*afterward*” called “*the last*

days". During that *last days* period, Israel will *seek the Lord their God and David their king*.

What about David as their king? Since Hosea wrote this long after David died, this isn't referring literally to king David. Instead, it means that they will seek the one who will inherit the throne of David. Hosea wrote this when David's ultimate heir was unnamed. However, this king is now revealed as Jesus, the Christ.

Zech. 12:10 tells us that this will happen in the *last days* (the end times). The eyes of God's people will be opened. With deep mourning, they will recognize their Messiah as the one their forefathers pierced. Israel will recognize the one identified as "*Me whom they have pierced*". (vs 10 Zech. 12)

This remarkable statement at once equates "*Me*" (God who is speaking) with the one "*whom they*

have pierced“, which is Christ, in reference to His crucifixion, which was carried out upon His rejection by Israel. Those “*last days*” in which Israel will humbly seek Christ are part of the end – times, as indicated by Rev 1:7 which alludes to this prophecy of Zechariah.

➤ **3. Prophecy of Israel Rebuilding the Temple**

Daniel 9:27

*He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven.’ In the middle of the ‘seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And **at the temple** he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.*

Matthew 24:15 - *So when you see standing in **the holy place** ‘the abomination that causes*

desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand—

*Revelation 11:1-2 – I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, “Go and measure the **temple of God** and the altar, with its worshipers. 2 But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months.*

These prophecies do not provide explicit details about the 3rd Temple in of themselves, but they along with other prophecies do reveal the presence and need for the 3rd Temple during the Tribulation. Daniel is told that a week (shabbat) or seven-year period would end our current age and the event that kicks off that seven-year period will be the signing of a covenant between the Antichrist and Israel. (*see details in #4 prophecy*) This covenant will allow

the Jews to restart sacrifice in a newly constructed temple on the temple mount. This is a significant event in the life of Israel.

Then the angel told Daniel that the midpoint of the week (3.5 years) would be a pivotal moment during the seven years. At that moment the sacrifice in the temple would end, and the Antichrist would assume a new and dangerous place in the world. (*see details in #5 prophecy*)

The point being there must be a temple built by the time of the Great Tribulation. This will be the third temple.

Obviously for there to be a 3rd temple there had to be a 1st and 2nd – there was and there will also be a 4th Temple – (The Millennial Temple) Ezekiel gives a detailed description of this temple. The Ezekiel temple is not the 3rd Temple.

The first temple - was built in 957 BC by King Solomon (*1 Kings Chapter 5 – 9*). The temple replaced the tabernacle constructed by Moses as directed by God. It was totally destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BC which began the 70 years of captivity as prophesied by Jeremiah.

The second temple – was authorized by Cyrus king of Persia in 537 BC after the fall of the Babylon Empire the year before the Medes and Persia Empire.

The second temple was destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD when they annihilated Israel and Israel ceased to be a sovereign nation. The destruction of the second temple was spoken by Jesus (Mk 13:1-2)

The third temple – will exist during the Great Tribulation. The Apostle Paul also mentions it when he declares that the “man of lawlessness” will profane the temple by entering it and

declaring himself to be God (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4).

The fourth temple – also known as the Millennial temple and the Ezekiel temple. This glorious Millennial Temple will be constructed at this time, far surpassing the Temples built by Solomon, Zerubbabel, and Herod. Through the Prophet Ezekiel, the Lord said that this Temple will be “the place of my throne, and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel forever” (Ezek. 43:7). This speaks of Jesus our Lord – He will be there.

➤ **4. Prophecy of Israel’s Covenant with Antichrist**

Daniel 9:27

*He will **confirm a covenant** with many for one ‘seven.’ In the middle of the ‘seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the*

temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.

Israel's entering into this deceptive covenant with the Antichrist is a key end-time prophecy mentioned in Daniel 9:27 and Isaiah 10:20; 28:14-18. Why?

Because scripture teaches that the 7-Year Tribulation begins when Antichrist signs a covenant with Israel – literally a “peace treaty”.

Daniel 9:27 – “Then he (the Antichrist) will confirm a covenant (Treaty) with many for one-week (7 years). In the middle of the week (Halfway point = 3.5 years) he (Antichrist) will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings.”

This key prophetic moment sets in motion several key events:

- The reinstituting of daily sacrifices in Israel.
- The rise of the "man of lawlessness," a religious figure who claims to speak for God.
- Geopolitical events that will lead to armies amassing around Israel and Jerusalem.

What begins as a promise of peace will come to an abrupt end. Isaiah warns this agreement will be based in a lie and will guarantee war because it is a covenant with death. The Man of Lawlessness will use it as a pretext to invade Israel. The goal of the Antichrist armies will be to capture Jerusalem and establish an Antichrist presence in the restored Third Temple on the Temple Mount.

➤ 5. Prophecy of Abomination of Desolation

Daniel 12:11

“And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days.”

Matthew 24:15

“Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place...”

This is another significant prophecy in the life of Israel and is key to the return of Christ. Here key elements of this prophecy-

1. It occurs at the mid-point of the Tribulation – the church is gone,, however there are thousands of believers alive at this time who received Christ during the first 3½ years of the Tribulation.

2. The antichrist reneges on his promise to Israel at this time
3. It sets the stage for the second half of the tribulation – which is much worse than the first half.
4. The antichrist is killed
5. Yet he is resurrected by the power of Satan, at which point, he will assume control of the entire world government.

The antichrist will seat himself in the Jewish temple calling himself god and demanding the world's worship – this is the abomination – desolating the temple.

Key Scriptures Regarding Israel

1. All the nations of the world will come together against Israel over the issue of the control of Jerusalem (Zechariah 12:1-3).
Fulfillment: Currently occurring.
2. The Antichrist will intervene and guarantee the security of Israel, enabling the Jews to rebuild their Temple (Daniel 9:27).
3. At the end of three and a half years, the Antichrist will enter the rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem and declare himself to be God (Daniel 9:27, Matthew 24:15-18, & 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4).
4. The Jews will reject the Antichrist, and he will respond with an attempt to annihilate them, killing two-thirds of them in the process (Revelation 12:13-17 & Zechariah 13:8-9).
5. At the end of the Tribulation, when the Jews have come to the end of themselves, they will turn to God and receive Jesus (Yeshua)

as their Messiah (Zechariah 12:10, Romans 9:27-28, & Romans 11:25-27).

6. Jesus will return and regather all believing Jews to Israel (Deuteronomy 30:1-9).
7. Israel will be established as the prime nation in the world (Isaiah 2:1-4 & Micah 4:1-7).
8. The Lord will bless the Jewish remnant by fulfilling all the promises He has made to Israel (Isaiah 60:1-62:7).
9. The blessings of God will flow out to all the nations through the Jewish people during the Millennial rule of Jesus (Zechariah 8:22-23).

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.

Psalm 122:6

WHY CHRISTIANS SHOULD SUPPORT ISRAEL

As Christians we should have a different worldview than what we hear or read in the secular news. Our perspective concerning world issues should be from a “Biblical Worldview”. The same is true for our attitude towards Israel. When one understands God’s plan and the role Israel plays in that plan things become much clearer.

A Biblical worldview is based on God’s revealed truth in His Word. The Word of God should shape and develop our core values and beliefs. Our worldview of God, creation, moral order, and purpose should be the foundation of our perspective concerning social, fiscal, political, personal, and world issues.

Some Christians hesitate to support Israel because they disagree with their politics or national history. Let me say supporting Israel doesn’t mean justifying everything Israel has done or does as a country. In

fact, throughout the history of Israel God condemned many of the things they did and their current situation is a direct result of their disobedience to God. However, none of that changes God's love or support for Israel.

A person can easily become confused and place their support in the wrong place if they don't have a sound Biblical worldview. Their thinking can get so twisted they begin calling what is good as evil and evil as good. This is why so many adopt misguided views of support for enemies of Israel. We are called to stand with Israel against the continued rise of demonically driven forces to eradicate the Jewish people.

Our standing with Israel is not about politics, it is about the Word of God. We understand the consequences of political forces are often significant and important, but as believers our position must be based in the truth of God's Word.

The Bible tells us Jesus one day will return to rescue Israel from the world's attack upon them and to

fulfill God's covenant with Israel. Zech. 14:4 says the feet of Jesus will stand on the Mount of Olives on that day. It is probably the reason why most of the world news is focused toward this tiny speck of land. Here are 3 reasons we should stand with Israel as Christians from a pure Biblical position.

1. Because God Instructs Us to Comfort Israel

“Comfort, yes, comfort My people!” Says your God.” (Isaiah 40:1) This is clearly not a call to the Jewish people, otherwise they would be comforting themselves. Rather, it is a call to a Gentile people who serve God to stand alongside Israel. Our responsibility to bless and comfort her clearly is not a suggestion or discussion point where God invites our opinion. He Himself, the Creator of heaven and earth who calls out the stars by name (Isaiah 40:26), tells us to arise and stand with His people in comfort and love.

2. Because Israel Is God's Chosen Nation

“For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth.” (Deuteronomy 7:6). Israel was chosen by God as a nation to fulfill His purposes. Israel is the Apple of God's Eye. God judges those who abuse the Jewish people. (Zech. 2:8) God also gave the title deed of the land of Israel to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and their descendants forever. (*Genesis 15:18; 17:2–8; 26:3*) There is no neutral ground. Either you're for Israel or not. If not, you are for their enemies. As Christians, we must stand up for our Jewish friends and the nation of Israel. These are God's very chosen people!

3. Because We Owe a Debt to Israel

“You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.” (John 4:22) This is an indisputable, historical fact.

Without the Jews we would have no patriarchs, no prophets, no apostles, no Bible—and no Savior! This is true for ever culture— Arabs, Africans, Asians, Europeans, Russians, Americans or Chinese. Our salvation came through the Jewish people. If you are a believer, you cannot be consistent with the whole of Scripture and take a passive position toward the Jews and Israel. As Christians, we owe a debt of gratitude to the Jewish people and will stand with Israel, because they are forever linked with the spiritual promises of God.

“To stand with Israel” –

- Is to agree with what God says in His Word about the Jewish people: that He chose them as a people for Himself, He dearly loves them, is faithful to His everlasting covenants made with them.
- It means supporting the State of Israel’s right to exist is based on Scripture. Standing with

Israel means believing the State of Israel has the right to defend herself against and respond to attacks against her land and people.

- Last but not least it means praying for and blessing Israel.

SUMMARY

An accurate truthful understanding of who Israel is crucial. Hopefully this mini-book will help. We have an alarming rise of antisemitism across the world right now, even in our universities here in the United States and within some Christian circles. We have people supporting anti- Jewish groups and marching in step with the false narrative that Israel is an apartheid state. I don't think these people even know what that truly means, it's just something that's parroted!

Jewish hate is nothing new. Egypt wanted to destroy the Jews when Pharaoh gave the order to murder the Jewish baby boys (Exodus 1). Ancient Persia (modern Iran) wanted to eradicate the Jews through the wicked plot of Haman (Esther 3). Hitler had his "Final Solution" to destroy the Jewish people and ultimately murdered over 6 million of them in the Holocaust. But God intervened. It is the same demonic spirit at work in current day enemies of

Israel, like Hamas, Hezbollah, and Iran—who back these organizations.

God will intervene again. Whether you are a Gentile or a Jew, the same God who is keeping His promise to Abraham's chosen offspring will keep every promise to people who put their trust in Jesus Christ as Savior and worships Him as Lord. He will protect and preserve you. Your life will be a living testimony of the blessing a covenant relationship with Him offers. As part of the Church, you will be a conduit of blessing to the world. And when the Bride of Christ is raptured in the twinkling of an eye, He will gather you to Himself with all the other believers who have put their faith in Jesus.

We pray Lord – Come quickly. (Rev. 22_20) Until then we pray for the peace of Israel.. Amen

***“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
“May they prosper who love you.”
Psalm 122:6***

All about **Israel**



The nation of Israel is like no other nation on the face of the earth.

It is God ordained, God decreed, and a God protected nation.

Israel is God's prophetic timepiece.

The return of Jesus is connected to

God's covenant with Israel. The church did not replace Israel. It is important for us as believers to understand God's plan for Israel. This book will help you to know more about Israel.

> Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!

Psalm 33:12

> Whoever blesses Israel will be blessed, And whoever curses Israel will be cursed."

Numbers 24:9

THE HOLY LAND

